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DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

• DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Psychology Laboratory

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Dear Josh:

Thanks for the copy of your column which just arrived but which had already been heralded by letters I received from readers.

Let me bring you up to date on the XYY study. Police Commissioner Leary gave his general approval to the study via Costello and turned it over to George McManus, his second in command in the department. I met day before yesterday with McManus (a real smart guy who is at least 6'4" and idiosyncratically tall for his family he told me) and members of his staff. His reaction to the study was very good indeed and he now goes back to Leary for final approval. My hunch is that this step will take a couple of weeks but that approval will be granted. In order to sell the study I have had to offer to help arrange for its continuation to follow up the recruits after they are on the police force and I have also more or less had to agree to do at least the cognitive testing on a larger group of recruits than the XYYs and their controls.

As you know the proposal, of which you have a copy, has gone off to NIMH (by the way the man with whom I have been dealing is Dr. Saleen Shah of the Center for Studies of Crime and Delinquency at NIMH). I hope the money does not get used up elsewhere with all this delay.

All the best to all of you.

Cordially,



Herman A. Witkin

HAW:LW